

Remarks/Arguments

A. Status of the Claims and the Indefiniteness Rejection

Claim 31 is revised to address the indefiniteness rejection raised by the Examiner. No claims have been added or cancelled. Therefore, claims 21-41 remain pending, with claim 41 being withdrawn at this time.

B. The Restriction Requirement Should be Withdrawn

Applicant requests that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed below in response to the Obviousness rejection. Specifically, Applicant respectfully believes that this case is in condition for allowance and that withdrawn method claim 41 should be rejoined pursuant to the Examiner's statement at the bottom of page 2 of the Action.

C. The Obviousness Rejection Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 21-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Publication 2006/0118408 ("Myli *et al.*") in view of U.S. Patent 6,040,053 ("Scholz") and Society of Vacuum Coaters. Action at page 3. In making this rejection, the Examiner noted:

Applicant cannot rely upon the foreign priority papers to overcome this rejection using Myli *et al.* because a translation of said papers has not been made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. See MPEP § 201.15.

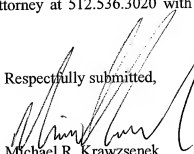
Id. at page 4.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that the claims are obvious over the cited art. Further, Applicant attaches as Appendix A an English language translation of priority application FR 0450042, filed on January 7, 2004, along with a statement that the translation is accurate. Also attached as Appendix B is a copy of FR 0450042. The translation confirms that the pending claims are supported by FR 0450042. Therefore, Myli *et al.* is not prior art to the claimed invention and the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn. *See* MPEP 201.15.

D. Conclusion

This case is in condition for allowance and such favorable action is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at 512.536.3020 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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